

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02070 061207Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SCCT-01 IO-11 ACDA-05

/081 W

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O 061125Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8887

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2070

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 (REVIVED) LEBANON REPORT

1. SEPARATE REPORTS PROVIDE DETAILS ON AKKAR
INCIDENT DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY WHICH SET OFF WAVE
OF KIDNAPPINGS, ROADBLOCKS AND A DEGREE OF FIGHTING
IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. VARIOUS
REPORTS INDICATE PERHAPS A DOZEN PEOPLE KILLED
IN THE NORTH. CHRISTIAN VILLAGE OF KUBAYAT WHICH
WAS PRIMARILY INVOLVED IS HOMETOWN OF MANY OFFICERS
AND MEN IN LEBANESE ARMY AND THEREFORE CALLED FORTH ESPECIALLY
EXAGGERATED REACTION. WE GATHER RENEGADE LEBANESE
ARMY FORCES UNDER MAJOR MAMARY NEAR TRIPOLI SHOT
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02070 061207Z

DOWN ARMY HELICOPTER AND ARE HOLDING ARMY MEN IN IT

WHOM THE ACCUSED OF BEING ON THEIR WAY TO MAKE MORE TROUBLE IN THE NORTH. KIDNAPPINGS IN JOUNIEH AREA AND EASTERN BEIRUT BY PHALANGE-NLP NATURALLY RESULTED IN ROADBLOCKS AND KIDNAPPINGS IN WESTERN BEIRUT BY VARIETY OF ARMED ELEMENTS. CHAMOU IS REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED AT ONE TIME FOR INVOLVEMENT OF THE AIR FORCE. ALL THIS CAUSED BEIRUT CITIZENRY, A NATURAL FEAR FANNED BY ALARMIST NEWSPAPER STORIES.

2. AS BEST WE CAN MAKE OUT, SITUATION IS MUCH CALMER TODAY. A TENUOUS CEASEFIRE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING IN THE NORTH. MOST KIDNAPPED PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RETURNED AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO CALM ALL SIDES. IT IS IRONIC THAT, AS IN SO MANY INSTANCES HERE, INCIDENT WHICH SET OFF THE FIGHTING AND THEREFORE THE TENSIONS RESULTED FROM A MISTAKE IN WHICH A COMMON CRIME WITHIN THE MOSLEM COMMUNITY WAS ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY CHRISTIANS. (MOSLEM ARMY DESERTER APPARENTLY ROBBED MOSLEM MEMBER OF JAFFAR CLAN, AND ROBBED MAN'S RELATIVES ASSUMED IT WAS A CHRISTIAN FROM KUBAYAT VILLAGE.)

3. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT CHAMOUN IS ALONE AMONG MAJOR MARONITE LEADERS TO BE REACTING IN AN EXAGGERATED MANNER NOW THAT FACTS OF THE CASE ARE GENERALLY KNOWN. THIS FITS IN WITH CHAMOUN'S STANCE ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW GOVT IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN OPPOSING KARAME EFFORTS GENERALLY BACKED BY FRANGIE TO GET ENLARGED GOVT QUICKLY. PHALANGE LEADER GEMAYEL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNDECIDED THROUGH THIS PROCESS. WHILE PHALANGE MILITANTS CONTINUE TO TELL US THAT THEY ARE NOT ABOUT TO TURN OVER STRATEGIC POSITIONS TO LEBANESE ARMY IN THE AREA THEY CONTROL, NOR RELY ON ARMY AS GUARANTOR OF SECURITY IN THAT AREA REPLACING THEMSELVES, THIS FACT IN ITSELF DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE DRAWING MILITANT REACTION FROM THE LEFTIST-PALESTINIAN SIDE.

4. SURPRISE VISIT TO FRANGIE BY SYRIAN GENERAL JAMIL CARRYING MESSAGE FROM ASAD WAS WELL PUBLICIZED
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02070 061207Z

HERE. WE ASSUME ASAD'S MESSAGE WAS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS AND REMINDED FRANGIE OF HIS COMMITMENT TO DELIVER CHRISTIANS TO ARRANGEMENT EMBODIED IN BAABDA DOCUMENT AND ENTIRE SYRIAN EFFORT.

5. DATT HAS RECEIVED REPORT THAT ANOTHER PLA BATTALION HAS JUST MOVED INTO BEIRUT. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SYRIANS INTEND GO THROUGH WITH THEIR PLANS TO ESTABLISH

SECURITY IN MSOLEM AREAS OF CITY AND COUNTRYSIDE,
COUNTING ON FRANGIE TO WIN CONTINUING COOPERATION
OF CHRISTIANS IN SECTIONS THEY CONTROL. WE WOULD
NOT BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, BY SOME MORE TROUBLE HERE
BEFORE SECURITY CAN REALLY BE REESTABLISHED.
LAMBRAKIS

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